

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the above identified application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated 5/18/2004 the Examiner rejected pending claims 1-6 and 16. Claims 7 and 14 and 7-15 and 17 were objected to. The Office Action and the references cited therein have been carefully considered and the above amendment is presented in an effort to advance prosecution of the application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 16 as anticipated by EP 45015A1 (Doll). In Figure 2 of Doll, after the intermediate member 52 has been removed, the stalk divider 50 is pivoted to another position and is secured when the member 52 is again inserted.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to specify that the stalk divider "can be deflected sideways during harvesting". This limitation is described in paragraph 24 of the Specification as originally filed.

Thus, all the elements in Claim 1, for example, are not taught or suggested in the cited references, either singly or in combination. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion in Doll that the "stalk divider can be deflected sideways during harvesting" as now set forth in Claim 1.

Claims 3, 7 and 14 have also been amended.

It is therefore believed that the rejection of all the claims should be withdrawn and that this application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present communication may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525.

Respectfully,


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